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The phase transition of the Gross-Neveu model with  $N$  fermions is investigated by means of a non-perturbative evolution equation for the scale dependence of the effective average action. The critical exponents and scaling amplitudes are calculated for various values of  $N$  in  $d = 3$ . It is also explicitly verified that the Neveu-Yukawa model belongs to the same universality class as the Gross-Neveu model.

The Gross-Neveu (GN) model [1] is one of the simplest models for interacting fermions. Nevertheless, in three dimensions our quantitative understanding beyond some universal characteristics of the phase transition has remained rather incomplete. The universality class of the GN-model in dimensions between 2 and 4 has been argued to be the same as the Neveu-Yukawa (NY) model [2] in  $4 - \epsilon$  dimensions [3]. Both the large  $N$  and  $\epsilon$  expansion indicate that a second order phase transition takes place for some critical value of the coupling constant if the number of fermion species  $N$  is larger than one [4]. The anomalous dimensions have been calculated up to the third order in the  $1/N$  expansion [5], while some critical exponents have been computed to the order  $1/N$  in the phase with spontaneous symmetry breaking (SSB) [6]. In this letter we find the second order phase transition and calculate the critical exponents employing an analytical method based on nonperturbative flow equations for scale dependent effective couplings. We directly obtain results for arbitrary dimension and without a restriction to large  $N$ . Despite the presence of massless fermions we are able to investigate the symmetric phase. Due to the fermion fluctuations the infrared physics is not trivial in the NY-language and requires a careful discussion of the critical exponents. Beyond the universal critical behaviour our method gives a description for arbitrary values of the GN-coupling away from the critical point. In particular, we compute the non-universal critical amplitudes.

The running couplings parameterize the effective average action  $\Gamma_k$  [7] which is a type of coarse grained free energy. It includes the effects of the quantum fluctuations with momenta larger than an infrared cutoff  $k$ . In the limit where the average scale  $k$  tends to zero  $\Gamma_k$  becomes therefore the usual effective action, i.e. the generating functional of  $1PI$  Green functions. In the limit  $k \rightarrow \infty$  it approaches the classical action. In a theory with bosons and fermions the scale dependence of  $\Gamma_k$  can be described by an exact nonperturbative evolution equation [7,8]

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Gamma_k[\phi, \psi] = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left\{ (\Gamma_k^{(2)}[\phi, \psi] + \mathcal{R}_k)_B^{-1} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} R_{kB} - (\Gamma_k^{(2)}[\phi, \psi] + \mathcal{R}_k)_F^{-1} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} R_{kF} \right\} \quad (1)$$

where  $t = \ln(k/\Lambda)$  with  $\Lambda$  some suitable high momentum scale. The trace represents a momentum integration as well as a summation over internal indices and  $\Gamma_k^{(2)}$  is the exact inverse propagator given by the matrix of second functional derivatives of the action with respect to bosonic and fermionic field variables. The infrared cutoff

$$\mathcal{R}_k(q, q') = \begin{pmatrix} R_{kB} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & R_{kF} \\ 0 & -R_{kF} & 0 \end{pmatrix} (2\pi)^d \delta^d(q - q')$$

is parameterized by the bosonic and fermionic cutoff functions  $R_{kB}(q) = q^2 Z_{\sigma,k} r_B(q)$ ,  $R_{kF}(q) = i \not{q} Z_{\psi,k} r_F(q)$ . We choose

$$R_{kB} = \frac{Z_{\sigma,k} q^2}{e^{\frac{q^2}{k^2}} - 1}; \quad R_{kF} = i Z_{\psi,k} \not{q} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - e^{-\frac{q^2}{k^2}}}} - 1 \right) \quad (2)$$

where  $Z_{\sigma,k}$ ,  $Z_{\psi,k}$  are wave function renormalizations. The momentum integration in Eq. (1) is both infrared and ultraviolet finite. Equation (1) is an exact but complicated functional differential equation which can only be solved approximately by truncating the most general form of  $\Gamma_k$ . Once a suitable nonperturbative truncation is found the flow equation can be integrated from some short distance scale  $\Lambda$ , where  $\Gamma_\Lambda$  can be taken as the classical action, to  $k \rightarrow 0$  thus solving the model approximately.

The GN model is described in terms of a  $O(N)$  symmetric action for a set of  $N$  massless Dirac fermions. The classical Euclidean action is given by

$$S_{GN} = \int d^d x \left[ -\bar{\psi}_i(x) (\not{\nabla} + \sigma(x)) \psi_i(x) + \frac{1}{2G} \sigma^2(x) \right]. \quad (3)$$

(Here and in the following we distinguish with a bar the dimensionful couplings.) The (pseudo)-scalar  $\sigma(x)$  is an auxiliary non dynamical field which can be integrated out from the partition function, leading to the replacement  $\sigma(x) \rightarrow \bar{G} \bar{\psi}(x) \psi(x)$ . Its vacuum expectation value  $\sigma_0$  is proportional to the fermion condensate,  $\sigma_0 = \bar{G} < \bar{\psi} \psi >$ . The model is asymptotically free and perturbatively renormalizable in 2 dimensions, hence it exhibits a non-trivial fixed point in  $d = 2 + \epsilon$ . It is  $1/N$  renormalizable in  $2 < d < 4$ .

The NY model whose classical action is

$$S_{NY} = \int d^d x \left[ -\bar{\psi}_i(x) (\not{\nabla} + \bar{h} \sigma(x)) \psi_i(x) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \sigma(x))^2 + \frac{m^2}{2} \sigma^2(x) + \frac{\bar{g}}{4!} \sigma^4(x) \right] \quad (4)$$

has a Gaussian fixed point in  $d = 4$  where it is perturbatively renormalizable and a non-trivial fixed point in  $d = 4 - \epsilon$ . Both models have, in even dimensions, a discrete chiral symmetry which prevents from the addition of a fermion mass term, while in odd dimensions a mass term is forbidden by space parity. Performing a large  $N$  analysis the universal properties

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of the two models are argued to be the same in  $2 < d < 4$  [3]: in such limit the two models are equivalent in the scaling region if we rescale  $\bar{h}\sigma$  to  $\sigma$  and set  $\bar{G} = \bar{h}^2/m^2$ .

We consider a truncation of the effective action  $\Gamma_k$  which contains a potential for the scalar field and a Yukawa term. In momentum space it reads ( $\int d^d q = \int d^d q/(2\pi)^d$ )

$$\Gamma_k[\sigma, \psi, \bar{\psi}] = \int d^d x U_k(\sigma) + \int d^d q \left[ \frac{Z_{\sigma,k}}{2} \sigma(-q) q^2 \sigma(q) - Z_{\psi,k} \bar{\psi}_i(-q) i \not{A} \psi^i(q) - \int dp \bar{h}_k \bar{\psi}_i(-q) \sigma(p) \psi^i(q-p) \right]. \quad (5)$$

The scalar potential is assumed to be a function of the invariant  $\sigma^2(x)$  and we make the further simplification

$$U_k(\sigma) = \frac{m_k^2}{2} (\sigma^2(x) - \sigma_{0k}^2) + \frac{\bar{g}_k}{4!} (\sigma^2(x) - \sigma_{0k}^2)^2 + \frac{\bar{b}_k}{6!} (\sigma^2(x) - \sigma_{0k}^2)^3. \quad (6)$$

The symmetric regime is characterized by the minimum being at  $\sigma_{0k}^2 = 0$ . In the SSB regime a  $k$ -dependent minimum  $\sigma_{0k}^2 \neq 0$  develops, whereas  $m_k^2 = 0$ .

Inserting Eqs. (5), (6) into (1) we obtain a set of evolution or renormalization group equations (RGE) for the effective parameters of the theory in the two regimes. Integrating the RGE between some high momentum scale  $\Lambda$  and  $k = 0$  we will find the phase transition point and extract the critical exponents of the theory. We find it convenient to work with dimensionless quantities  $h_k^2 = Z_\sigma^{-1} Z_\psi^{-2} k^{d-4} \bar{h}_k^2$ ,  $g_k = Z_\sigma^{-2} k^{d-4} \bar{g}_k$ ,  $b_k = Z_\sigma^{-3} k^{2d-6} \bar{b}_k$ ,  $e_k = Z_\sigma^{-1} k^{-2} m_k^2$ ,  $\tilde{\rho} = \frac{1}{2} Z_\sigma k^{2-d} \sigma^2$ ,  $\kappa_k = \frac{1}{2} Z_\sigma k^{2-d} \sigma_{0k}^2$ ,  $u_k = U_k k^{-d}$  and we use  $u'_k = \frac{\partial u_k}{\partial \tilde{\rho}}$  etc.

The evolution equation for the potential obtains from (1) by evaluating  $\Gamma_k^{(2)}$  in the truncation (5) for a constant background scalar field. We find

$$\frac{\partial_t U_k(\sigma)}{k^d} = v_d \int_0^\infty dy y^{d/2} \left\{ \frac{-\eta_\sigma r_B - 2y \dot{r}_B}{u'_k + 2\tilde{\rho} u'_k + y(1+r_B)} + 2N' \frac{(\eta_\psi r_F + 2y \dot{r}_F)(1+r_F)}{2h_k^2 \tilde{\rho} + y(1+r_F)^2} \right\} \equiv \zeta_k(\tilde{\rho}). \quad (7)$$

Here we have introduced the notation  $N' = 2^{\gamma/2} N$  with  $2^{\gamma/2}$  the dimension of the  $\gamma$  matrices and  $y = q^2/k^2$ ,  $\dot{r} = \frac{\partial r}{\partial y}$ . Also we have defined  $v_d^{-1} = 2^{d+1} \pi^{d/2} \Gamma(d/2)$ . In the SSB regime the evolution equations for the parameters  $\kappa_k$ ,  $g_k$  and  $b_k$  are then obtained as

$$\partial_t \kappa_k = (2-d-\eta_\sigma) \kappa_k - \frac{3}{g_k} [\partial_{\tilde{\rho}} \zeta_k]_{\kappa_k} \quad (8)$$

$$\partial_t g_k = (2\eta_\sigma + d-4) g_k + 3 [\partial_{\tilde{\rho}}^2 \zeta_k]_{\kappa_k} + \frac{1}{5} b_k \partial_t \kappa_k \quad (9)$$

$$\partial_t b_k = (3\eta_\sigma + 2d-6) b_k + 15 [\partial_{\tilde{\rho}}^3 \zeta_k]_{\kappa_k}. \quad (10)$$

In the symmetric regime  $\kappa_k = 0$  so we replace eq. (8) by

$$\partial_t e_k = (\eta_\sigma - 2) e_k + [\partial_{\tilde{\rho}} \zeta_k]_0. \quad (11)$$

The anomalous dimensions  $\eta_\sigma$  and  $\eta_\psi$  are defined as

$$\eta_\sigma(k) = -\partial_t \ln Z_{\sigma,k}, \quad \eta_\psi(k) = -\partial_t \ln Z_{\psi,k}. \quad (12)$$

The wave function renormalizations  $Z$  parametrize the momentum dependence of the propagators at zero momentum and  $\sigma = \sigma_{0k}$ . One finds

$$\eta_\sigma(k) = \partial_\alpha \left\{ \left( \frac{2}{15} b_k \kappa_k + g_k \right)^2 \kappa_k \frac{v_d}{d} \int dy y^{d/2} \left[ \dot{H}(y, \alpha)^2 - 2N' h_k^2 \left( y \dot{G}(y, \alpha)^2 - 2h_k^2 \kappa_k \dot{F}(y, \alpha)^2 \right) \right] \right\}_{\alpha=0} \quad (13)$$

$$\eta_\psi(k) = 4h_k^2 \partial_\alpha \left\{ \frac{v_d}{d} \int dy y^{d/2} \dot{H}(y, \alpha) G(y, \alpha) \right\}_{\alpha=0} \quad (14)$$

with

$$H(y, \alpha) = \frac{1}{[e_k + \frac{2}{3} g_k \kappa_k + y(1+r_B) - \alpha(\eta_\sigma r_B + 2y \dot{r}_B)]} \\ G(y, \alpha) = \frac{1+r_F - \alpha(\eta_\psi r_F + 2y \dot{r}_F)}{y[1+r_F - \alpha(\eta_\psi r_F + 2y \dot{r}_F)]^2 + 2h_k^2 \kappa_k} \quad (15) \\ F(y, \alpha) = \frac{1}{y[1+r_F - \alpha(\eta_\psi r_F + 2y \dot{r}_F)]^2 + 2h_k^2 \kappa_k}$$

Finally, the evolution equation for the Yukawa coupling obtains from taking derivatives of eq. (1) with respect to  $\bar{\psi}, \psi$  and  $\sigma$ :

$$\partial_t h_k^2 = (2\eta_\psi + \eta_\sigma + d-4) \\ - 4h_k^4 v_d \int_0^\infty dy y^{d/2} \left[ (\eta_\sigma r_B + 2y \dot{r}_B) H^2(y, 0) F(y, 0) - 2(\eta_\psi r_F + 2y \dot{r}_F) \frac{G^2(y, 0) H(y, 0)}{1+r_F} \right]. \quad (16)$$

The equations (13), (14) and (16) are valid in both regimes provided we set  $\kappa_k$  and  $e_k$  appropriately.

If we expand this set of equations in the coupling constants we recover the one-loop results obtained in the  $4-\epsilon$  expansion for the NY model [2]

$$\partial_t g = -\epsilon g + \frac{1}{8\pi^2} \left( \frac{3}{2} g^2 + 4N g h^2 - 24N h^4 \right) \quad (17)$$

$$\partial_t h^2 = -\epsilon h^2 + \frac{h^4}{8\pi^2} (2N+3) \quad (18)$$

$$\eta_\sigma = \frac{N h^2}{4\pi^2}, \quad \eta_\psi = \frac{N h^2}{16\pi^2} \quad (19)$$

Moreover, after identifying the running coupling constant of the GN model as  $G = h_k^2/e_k$  we also recover the one-loop result obtained in the  $2+\epsilon$  expansion for the GN model [2]

$$\partial_t G = (d-2)G - (N'-2) \frac{G^2}{2\pi} + O(G^3). \quad (20)$$

We numerically evolve the flow equations (8)-(14) from a large momentum scale  $\Lambda$  to  $k \rightarrow 0$ . The initial values of the parameters are chosen in such a way that  $\Gamma_\Lambda = S_{GN}$ :  $Z_{\sigma\Lambda} \simeq 0$ ,  $Z_{\psi\Lambda} = 1$ ,  $\bar{h}_\Lambda^2 = \Lambda$ ,  $\bar{g}_\Lambda = 0$ ,  $\bar{b}_\Lambda = 0$ . Then  $e_\Lambda = (Z_{\sigma\Lambda} G_\Lambda)^{-1}$  is the only free parameter of the theory and plays the role of the temperature. This value has to be tuned in order to be near the second order phase transition. The value corresponding to the critical temperature  $T_c$  is denoted by  $e_{\Lambda cr}$ . For  $Z_{\sigma\Lambda} = 10^{-10}$ ,  $d = 3$  and  $N = 3$  we find in our truncation  $e_{\Lambda cr} = 1.878085212016 \cdot 10^9$  and the critical coupling in the GN model is  $\bar{G}_{\Lambda cr} \Lambda = 5.32$ .

The relevant parameter for the deviation from  $T_c$  is  $\delta e = e_\Lambda - e_{\Lambda cr} = H(T - T_c)$  with constant  $H$ . In Fig. 1 we show the behaviour of the dimensionless couplings as functions of  $k$  for  $N = 3$ . As can be seen, they all reach a constant value in the symmetric regime ( $e_k > 0$ ,  $\kappa_k = 0$ ) corresponding to a nontrivial fixed point with vanishing beta functions. For  $\delta e < 0$  the symmetry is broken, as expected: the coupling  $e_k$  goes to zero and the order parameter  $\sigma_{0k}$  acquires a non zero value.

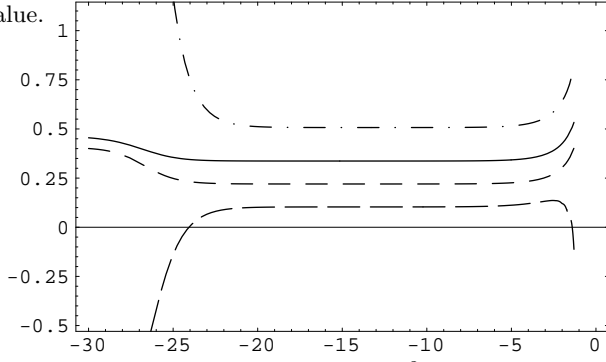


FIG. 1. Running couplings  $e_k$ ,  $\frac{g_k}{100}$ ,  $\frac{h_k^2}{10}$  and  $\frac{b_k}{1000}$ , as functions of  $t = \ln k/\Lambda$  given by dot-dashed, full, dashed and long-dashed lines respectively.

In the following, whenever numerical results are reported, we fix  $d = 3$  and  $N = 3$ . However, in Table 1. we summarize the results obtained for  $N = 2, 4, 12$ .

In the symmetric (high  $T$ ) phase the fermions are massless. Their fluctuations induce a nontrivial dependence of  $Z_\sigma$  and the renormalized scalar mass  $m_R^2(k) = Z_\sigma^{-1}(k)m^2(k)$  on the scale  $k$  even away from the phase transition. This contrasts with the standard situation where the running of  $m_R(k)$  essentially stops in the symmetric phase once  $k$  becomes much smaller than  $m_R$ . The issue of critical exponents in a situation with two different infrared cutoffs  $k$  and  $m_R$  is therefore more complex than usual. In a standard situation we would define the exponents  $\gamma$  and  $\nu$  by following the temperature dependence of the unrenormalized and renormalized mass,  $m^2(k)$  and  $m_R^2(k)$  for  $k \rightarrow 0$  [9]. Here we define the renormalized mass at some fixed small ratio  $k/m_R$  by

$$\tilde{m}_R^2 = m_R^2(k_c) - m_{Rcr}^2(k_c), \quad k_c = r_c \tilde{m}_R \quad (21)$$

with  $m_{Rcr}^2(k) = ek^2$  on the critical trajectory. (In the numerical simulations we will fix the ratio  $r_c$  to be equal to 0.01). This mass corresponds to the only relevant parameter characterizing the critical behaviour. It is directly related to the deviation from the critical temperature  $T - T_c$  or  $\delta e$ . In the following we use the arguments  $\delta e$  or  $\tilde{m}_R$  interchangeably. We also define the inverse susceptibility or unrenormalized mass by

$$\tilde{m}^2 = \tilde{m}_R^2 Z_\sigma(k_c, \tilde{m}_R). \quad (22)$$

Correspondingly, the critical exponents  $\nu$  and  $\gamma$  are defined for fixed  $r_c$  and we find

$$\nu = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{\delta e \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial \ln \tilde{m}_R^2(\delta e)}{\partial \ln \delta e} = 1.041 \quad (23)$$

$$\gamma = \lim_{\delta e \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial \ln \tilde{m}^2(\delta e)}{\partial \ln \delta e} = 1.323. \quad (24)$$

From the definition (22) one has the relation

$$2\nu = \gamma - \frac{\partial \ln Z_\sigma(k_c, \tilde{m}_R)}{\partial \ln \delta e}. \quad (25)$$

A typical form of  $Z_\sigma$  is

$$Z_\sigma \simeq Z_0 \left( \frac{\tilde{m}_R^2 + k^2}{\Lambda^2} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}\bar{\eta}_\sigma} \left( \frac{k^2}{\tilde{m}_R^2 + k^2} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}\eta_2} \quad (26)$$

and we conclude

$$\frac{\partial \ln Z_\sigma(k_c, \tilde{m}_R)}{\partial \ln \delta e} = -\bar{\eta}_\sigma \nu, \quad \gamma = \nu(2 - \bar{\eta}_\sigma). \quad (27)$$

This is the usual index relation. We find  $\bar{\eta}_\sigma = 0.729$  and the index relation (27) yields  $\gamma = 1.323$ , consistent with the value of  $\gamma$  computed directly. The index  $\eta_2$ , which vanishes in the standard situation, determines the dependence of  $\tilde{m}_R$  on  $r_c$ .

For a more detailed understanding of the scale dependence we consider next the running of the renormalized mass and unrenormalized mass with  $k$ . We define

$$\hat{\nu}(k, \delta e) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \ln[m_R^2(k, \delta e) - m_{Rcr}^2(k)]}{\partial t} \Big|_{\delta e} \quad (28)$$

$$\hat{\gamma}(k, \delta e) = \frac{\partial \ln[m^2(k, \delta e) - \tilde{m}_{cr}^2(k, \delta e)]}{\partial t} \Big|_{\delta e} \quad (29)$$

with  $\tilde{m}_{cr}^2(k, \delta e) = m_{Rcr}^2(k) Z_\sigma(k, \delta e)$ . The relation  $m_R^2 = m^2/Z_\sigma$  implies the index relation

$$\hat{\gamma} = 2\hat{\nu} - \eta_\sigma \quad (30)$$

which differs from the usual relation  $\gamma = \nu(2 - \eta_\sigma)$ . For both  $k$  and  $\tilde{m}_R$  sufficiently small and  $k \gg \tilde{m}_R$  the indices  $\hat{\nu}$ ,  $\hat{\gamma}$ ,  $\eta_\sigma$  and  $\eta_\psi$  approach constant values independent of  $k$  and  $\tilde{m}_R$  and we find

$$\hat{\nu} = 0.502, \quad \hat{\gamma} = 0.295, \quad \eta_\sigma = 0.710, \quad \eta_\psi = 0.040. \quad (31)$$

These values agree well with Eq. (30). In the opposite regime,  $k \ll \tilde{m}_R$ , the running of the renormalized mass is only due to the anomalous dimension  $\eta_\sigma$  which is now different from the value (31). We find  $\hat{\nu} = 0.500$ ,  $\hat{\gamma} = 0.000$ ,  $\eta_\sigma = 1.000$ ,  $\eta_\psi = 0.000$ . Again, these values agree well with Eq. (30) and the expectation  $\hat{\gamma} = 0$ . The nontrivial exponents  $\hat{\nu}$ ,  $\eta_\sigma$  in the NY-language correspond to the absence of renormalization effects for  $\bar{G}_k$  for  $k \rightarrow 0$  in the GN language. We note that for fixed  $\delta e$  the renormalized scalar mass (which corresponds to the inverse correlation length) scales as  $m_R \sim k$  for  $m_R \ll k$  and  $m_R \sim \sqrt{k}$  for  $m_R \gg k$ . The value of  $\eta_\sigma = 1$  for  $k \ll m_R$ , corresponds to  $\eta_2$  in eq. (26).

We next turn to the dependence on the deviation  $\delta e$  at fixed  $k$ . We define the exponents as

$$\tilde{\nu}(k, \delta e) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \ln[m_R^2(k, \delta e) - m_{Rcr}^2(k)]}{\partial \ln \delta e} \Big|_k \quad (32)$$

$$\tilde{\gamma}(k, \delta e) = \frac{\partial \ln[m^2(k, \delta e) - \tilde{m}_{cr}^2(k, \delta e)]}{\partial \ln \delta e} \Big|_k. \quad (33)$$

In the limit  $\delta e \rightarrow 0$  we find  $\tilde{\nu} = 0.520$ ,  $\tilde{\gamma} = 1.326$ . The indices (28),(29) and (32),(33) are related to the definition of the critical exponents (23), (24) by

$$\nu = \lim_{\delta e \rightarrow 0} (\tilde{\nu}(k_c, \delta e) + \hat{\nu}(k_c, \delta e)\nu) \quad (34)$$

$$\gamma = \lim_{\delta e \rightarrow 0} (\tilde{\gamma}(k_c, \delta e) + \hat{\gamma}(k_c, \delta e)\gamma) \quad (35)$$

Here  $k_c(\delta e)$  is given by evaluating (21) at fixed  $r_c$ . Equations (34) and (35) yield respectively  $\nu = 1.041$  and  $\gamma = 1.326$ , consistent with the results of (23) and (24).

We also have computed the (nonuniversal) critical amplitudes which describe the dependence of  $\bar{m}_R$  and  $\bar{m}$  on the coupling  $G_\Lambda$  of the GN model. Observing  $\delta e/e_{\Lambda_{cr}} = G_{\Lambda_{cr}}\delta(1/G_\Lambda)$  we obtain, for small deviations from criticality,

$$\bar{m}_R = A_\nu \left| \frac{\delta G_\Lambda}{G_{\Lambda_{cr}}} \right|^\nu, \quad \bar{m}^2 = A_\gamma \left| \frac{\delta G_\Lambda}{G_{\Lambda_{cr}}} \right|^\gamma. \quad (36)$$

Our numerical values of the amplitudes  $A_\nu$ ,  $A_\gamma$  are  $A_\nu/\Lambda = 0.016$ ,  $A_\gamma/\Lambda^2 = 0.212$ .

We finally have investigated the low temperature phase with spontaneous symmetry breaking. Here the running of  $\sigma_0$  stops for small  $k$  and the complications of the symmetric phase are absent. The critical exponent  $\beta$  is defined with  $\sigma_0 = \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \sigma_{0k}$

$$\beta = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{\delta e \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln \sigma_0^2}{\ln \delta e} \quad (37)$$

such that

$$\sigma_0 = A_\beta \left| \frac{\delta G_\Lambda}{G_{\Lambda_{cr}}} \right|^\beta. \quad (38)$$

We find  $A_\beta/\sqrt{\Lambda} = 0.008$ ,  $\beta = 0.903$ , in good agreement with the scaling relation  $\beta = \frac{\nu}{2}(d-2+\eta_\sigma)$ . In Fig. 2 we plot the condensate  $\sigma_0$  as a function of  $G_\Lambda$ .

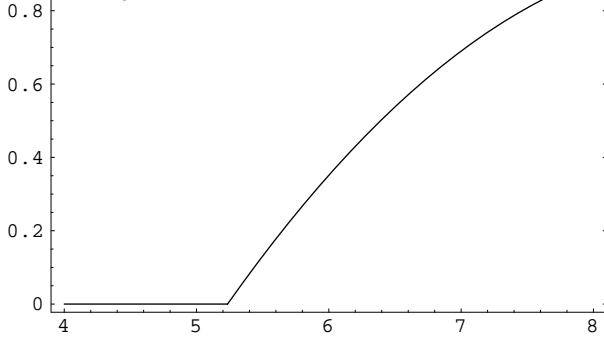


FIG. 2. Fermion-antifermion condensate  $\sigma_0/\sqrt{\Lambda}$  as a function of the  $(\bar{\psi}\psi)^2$  coupling  $G_\Lambda$ , in the range  $[3/4G_{\Lambda_{cr}}, 3/2G_{\Lambda_{cr}}]$ .

In the Table we report our results for different values of  $N$ . For all  $N \geq 2$  the existence of a second order phase transition is confirmed by our analysis. As can be checked, the scaling relations are well verified. To compare with existing results obtained in the  $1/N$  expansion, let us fix  $N = 12$ . In [6] the critical exponents have been calculated to the order  $1/N$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \nu &= 1 + \frac{8}{3N\pi^2} = 1.022, & \gamma &= 1 + \frac{8}{N\pi^2} = 1.068, \\ \beta &= 1 + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right), & \eta_\sigma &= 1 - \frac{16}{3N\pi^2} = 0.955. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

In the same paper Montecarlo simulations for  $N \geq 12$  are also reported. Conformal techniques have been used to calculate the anomalous dimensions to  $O(1/N^3)$  [5] and yield, for  $N = 12$ ,  $\eta_\psi = 0.013$ ,  $\eta_\sigma = 0.913$ . However, such techniques rely on being exactly at the critical point and hence cannot be used to calculate the other exponents.

N	2	3	4	12
$\nu$	0.961	1.041	1.010	1.023
$\gamma$	1.384	1.323	1.228	1.075
$\nu(2-\bar{\eta}_\sigma)$	1.403	1.323	1.230	1.075
$\beta$	0.745	0.903	0.910	0.998
$\frac{\nu}{2}(1+\eta_\sigma)$	0.750	0.890	0.903	0.991
$A_\nu/\Lambda$	0.007	0.016	0.009	0.014
$A_\gamma/\Lambda^2$	0.042	0.212	0.233	0.968
$A_\beta/\sqrt{\Lambda}$	0.007	0.008	0.005	0.007
$\eta_\sigma$	0.561	0.710	0.789	0.936
$\eta_\psi$	0.066	0.040	0.027	0.007
$\bar{\eta}_\sigma$	0.541	0.729	0.765	0.971
$G_{\Lambda_{cr}}$	9.989	5.325	3.613	1.006

TABLE 1. Critical exponents and amplitudes for different values of  $N$

The case  $N = 1$  appears to be different from  $N > 1$ . We find a phase transition. For small  $G_\Lambda$  (large  $e_\Lambda$ ) eq. (20) is valid ( $N' = 2$ ) and  $G_k$  scales according to its canonical dimension. The model is in the symmetric phase. For  $G_\Lambda > G_{\Lambda_{cr}}$ ,  $G_{\Lambda_{cr}} = 19.416$  the mass term at the origin of the potential becomes negative, indicating spontaneous symmetry breaking. We find no scaling solution, neither for  $e_k \geq 0$  nor for  $\kappa_k \geq 0$ . This may suggest a first order transition.

In conclusion, a simple truncation of the exact flow equation for the effective average action gives a consistent picture for a second order phase transition for the GN model with  $N \geq 2$  in three dimensions. We have computed critical exponents and amplitudes and we relate directly physical observables like the correlation length or the order parameter to the value of the coupling  $G$ . By choosing different initial conditions we have also explicitly verified that the Neveu-Yukawa model belongs to the same universality class as the Gross-Neveu model. The universal exponents are independent of the initial parameters, but not quantities like  $\sigma_0$ , the renormalized mass and the corresponding amplitudes.

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